This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Escherichia; cholera	pfs 5'- methylthioadenosine/ S-adenosylhomocysteine nucleosidase (MTAN)	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified three transition-state analogs that could disrupt quorum sensing—a mechanism that increases local bacterial density—to help treat infections. <i>In vitro</i> , each of three immucillin-A (ImmA) analogs inhibited the <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> enzyme involved in quorum sensing (VcMTAN) with picomolar potencies. <i>In vitro</i> , one of the analogs inhibited biofilm production by 18% and 71% for <i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>V. cholerae</i> , respectively. Next steps include animal studies for activity against various bacteria.	Transition-state analogs patented; licensed to Pico Pharmaceuticals Inc.; licensing inquiries should be addressed to Pico Pharmaceuticals	Gutierrez, J. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online March 8, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.153 Contact: Vern L. Schramm, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, N.Y. e-mail: vern@aecom.yu.edu
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